

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Forsyth Conference Center
Cumming, GA
July 30, 2015

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the Forsyth Conference Center in Cumming, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Forsyth County Commission.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Forsyth County Commission Chairman Pete Amos thanked everyone for coming to Forsyth County and to the Forsyth Conference Center. Forsyth County is ranked the 2nd in the State and 7th in the Nation as the fastest growing county. Mr. Amos spoke of some of the projects and progress that Forsyth County has made in the last year including the opening of the new Courthouse. He recognized County Commissioners Todd Levent and Cindy Mills; County Manager Doug Derrer, and Assistant County Manager Tim Merritt.

Mr. Amos also recognized from the City of Cumming, Mayor Ford Gravitt, and City Council Members, Quincy Holton, Ralph Perry, John Pugh, Lewis Ledbetter, and Chuck Welch. Newly elected State Representative Sheri Gilligan and James McCoy, Forsyth Chamber of Commerce were also in attendance.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Forsyth County Commission for hosting this meeting and the Cumming-Forsyth Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the meal.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; and Daniella Belton, Aide with Senator Isakson's Office.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Forsyth County Commissioner Cindy Mills introduced our speakers, Mr. Dallas Gay and Ms. Lori Murphy. Mr. Gay is the Community Program Chairman and Ms. Murphy is the Director of Program Development for the Medical Association of Georgia Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Gay and Ms. Murphy presented a program titled "Project DAN" (Deaths Avoided by Naloxone). The increase of deaths from prescription drugs are on the rise. Well over 16,500

deaths a year nationwide as caused from prescription drug overdose. More people now die each year from accidental drug overdose than in auto accidents. Project DAN's goal is to equip and train our law enforcement officers with the prescription drug Naloxone, which can reverse opioid overdose in minutes and they will provide the required training for its use. They will also help to educate and distribute materials on the "Four Steps to Reduce Rx Drug Abuse" and donate drop boxes to legally qualified location such as campus security at higher education institutions and law enforcement agencies for unused drug drop offs. People in our region may participate by getting civic clubs involved with giving out information; our law enforcement, EMTs, and fire fighters may be trained to administer Naloxone in the event of an overdose; hospitals, clinics and physician's offices can help distribute information on drug abuse; and secured public facilities can have a drop box for unused prescription drugs for the public. The Foundation is asking our help in getting the word out and getting the Naloxone kit in each of the fire stations and police/sheriff's offices in our region.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that development is running rampant in our region. The Kubota expansion on GA 365 in the largest development in Georgia and is located in our region. There is also tremendous work going on in Dawson and Forsyth Counties. This means new jobs for our region.

Heather Feldman and Adam Hazell are working on a project of combining the CEDS and the Regional Plan documents. This will be the first combined document for any of the Regional Commissions. The preliminary drafts will be completed next week and will be available for review. Charlie Auvermann serves as Chairman of the CEDS Committee.

Faith Bryan is approximately three-fourths finished with the Ortho Photography/LiDAR Project. Other RCs in Georgia are asking questions as to how they could do this for their region.

Becky Sievers and the Finance Department are exhausted. They have been working tirelessly on changing banks, changing auditors, and installing new accounting software. Mr. Lewis commended these ladies for their hard work.

Mr. Lewis and Peggy Lovell has begun to work with the attorneys on establishing a 501(c)(3) for the Friends of Georgia Mountains account. This is the account that is used for Annual Meeting and other Council expenses.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for June. The Cash Position as of June 30, 2015 showed a bank balance of \$1,559,290, receivables of \$449,889 and payables of \$1,039,025, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$970,154. The Revenue Expenditure

Report for the period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$6,623,489, Expenditures of \$6,618,591, with 100 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Leslie George. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates from Different Departments

New Software Changes

Becky Sievers commended her staff for their dedication and hard work that they have done during this time of so many changes. The new accounting software has been installed and they are starting FY16 on the new software while at the same time trying to close out FY15 on the old software. There have only been a few glitches but have been able to work them out.

With changing to new banks, most of the old accounts have been closed with the exception of a couple where they are waiting for checks to clear.

The Accounting staff have met the new auditors and are in the process of pulling all the documentation that they have asked for, so when they come into our office they will have documents ready to begin working with. The Auditors will be in our office for two weeks doing their preliminary work

Update on Workforce Development

John Phillips, Workforce Development Director reported that the WD Department staff has been tremendously busy during FY15. The Adult program had 520 individuals to participate. WD had a new incumbent training program. One of the main goals for WD is to get people that are unemployed back into the workforce. The Youth program served 356 students in 2015. The Summer Youth program had 49 people to finish their summer jobs and also provided after school tutor programs for the youth. WD is also working with RYDC to assist people in the facility to obtain their GED and be able to get back into the workforce. Since July 2013, the MTUs have served 3,100 people. Participants are allowed to use the computers on the MTUs to search for jobs, update resumes, apply for jobs, and brush up on computer skills.

Update on Grant Pre-applications

Heather Feldman, Economic Development Director, introduced her staff, Nancy Smallwood, Patrick Larson, and Meisa Pace (not present). The Economic Development Department is working on several applications including Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program, and OneGeorgia applications. ARC pre-applications are due on August 31st.

They have also just completed the merger or consolidation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) with the Regional Plan. The document includes requirements that will meet both agencies' needs. This is the first in the State to consolidate the document.

Meisa administers \$4.1 million in federal grants and loans. She is responsible for monitoring projects with respect to Labor Standards, Procurement, and financial management including drawdowns and quarterly reports.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Appointments

With the new fiscal year starting, Chairman Scarborough sent out an email with the new FY16 Committee Appointments listed. Council Members were asked to respond if they would not be able to serve on the committees as appointed. Chairman Scarborough stated that he did not hear from anyone, so the appointments are a go.

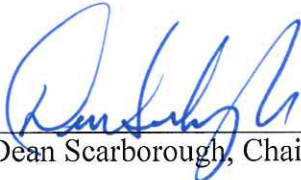
ANNOUCEMENTS

GMRC is in need of sponsors for the Council meetings for 2016. If your city or county can sponsor one of these meetings, please contact Peggy Lovell or Danny Lewis.

The August Council meeting is being sponsored by City of Hartwell.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman

George Wangemann, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2015-2016

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COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/30/15	8/27/15	9/24/15	10/24/15	11/29/15	12/4/15	1/28/16	2/25/16	3/31/16	4/28/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)											
	Jerry Payne	P											
	Leslie George	P											
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P											
	James Grogan**	P											
	Charlie Auvermann	A											
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	A											
	Ralph Perry	P											
		V											
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P											
	Ralph Owens	A											
	Gerald Voyles	A											
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A											
	Audrey Turner	A											
	Ken Schubring	P											
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)											
	George Wangemann***	P											
	Deborah Mack	P											
HART	Ricky Carter	P											
	Tray Hicks	A											
	Bill Chafin	P											
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	A											
	Sam Norton	A											
	J.B. Jones	A											

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RABUN	Greg James	A											
	Debbie Chisholm	A											
	Douglas Wayne	P											
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough*	P											
	David Austin	A											
	L.J. Harrison	P											
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	A											
	Joan Crothers	A											
	David Stovall	P											
UNION	Lamar Paris	P											
	Jim Conley	P											
	Mitch Griggs	A											
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)											
	Annie Sutton	A											
	Bill Black	P											
GOV APPT.	Rex Farnner	A											
		V											
	Will Wade	P											
SPEAKER APPT.		V											
	Peter Hill	P											

N = NEW MEMBER

E = EXCUSED

V = VACANCY

R = REPRESENTED

A = ABSENT

P = PRESENT

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary